preparation of such plans has been evolved.

(c) There are total of 18 applications for approval of mining plans pending with the Hyderabad Regional Office of the Indian Bureau of Mines as on 7.12.1992.

(d) As per the procedure laid down by the Indian Bureau of Mines, applications for approval of mining plans are required to be cleared within a period of 90 days.

(e) The Bureau has a regular system of periodic internal reviews of working of its different units carried out at different tiers of the organisation. Government also periodically reviews the functioning of the Bureau in various forums.

Export Duty on Granite

2926. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the imposition of 7 percent export duty on unpolished granite by the Centre has reduced the competitive capacity and strength of the granite industry;

(b) whether it is also a fact that several State Governments have taken regressive measures on the granite industry; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take any steps to ensure a uniform progressive mining lease policy to fructify the plans drawn up for rapid granite export build up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Government's policy is to encourage export of cut and polished granite so that greater value addition takes place within the country. As the export duty on unpolished stones has been imposed only in the current financial year, it is too early to assess its impact on its export. However, comparative export performance for the period April-July, 1991 and April-July, 1992 is as follows:—

(Rs. in Crores)

	Unpolished	Total
April-July, 1991	44.5	29.72
		74.22
April-July, 1992	69.0	48.00
		117.00

(b) and (c) Granite being a minor mineral as envisaged in Section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 rules regulating leasing of mining of this mineral are framed by the State Governments in exercise of the powers vested in them under Section 15 of this Act. Some representatives of the Granite mining industry have been complaining that the policy and rules regulating mining of Granite adopted by some States are not conducive for development of its export. Government of India has been impressing upon the State Governments that their rules and regulations governing exploration and exploitation of minor minerals should be realistic and not unnecessarily restrictive particulary, in case of minerals like Granite which have a good export potential.

राजस्थान में सोने की खोज

2927. श्री महेन्द्र सिंह लाठर: क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने हाल ही में राजस्थान के बांसबाड़ा जिले में सोने की एक खान का पता लगाया है; यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ख) सोने की इस खान से सोने की निकासी कब आरंभ होगी और इस पर कितना व्यय होने की संभावना है?

खान मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बलराम सिंह यादव): (क) 1991-92 के दौरान भारतीय भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण द्वारा किए गए सर्वेक्षण के फलस्वरूप, जिला बांसबाड़ा (राजस्थान) के आनन्दपुर-भूकिया क्षेत्र से स्वर्ण खनिजीकरण के सुराग मिले हैं। भारतीय भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण इस समय स्वर्ण खनिजीकरण की प्रकृति और विस्तार का आकलन करने के लिए इस क्षेत्र का आरंभिक गवेषण कर रहा है।

(ख) इन निक्षेपों का विदोहन उनकी तकनीकी आर्थिक क्षमता पर निर्भर करता है।